GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:112
ANSWERED ON:01.08.2005
IRREGULARITY OF MONSOON
Khan Shri Mohammad Tahir

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has made an assessment on the impact of irregularity of monsoon on foodgrains production in terms of percentage;

(b) if so, the estimated decline in the production of foodgrains recorded in terms of percentage during the current year;

(c) whether the contribution of agriculture sector in the total earnings of the country from export has increased during the recent past;

(d) if not, the corrective steps taken in this regard;

(e) whether export from this sector is likely to decline further; and

(f) if so, the crops likely to suffer the most on that account?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH)

(a) to (f): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (f) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 112 DUE FOR REPLY ON 1ST AUGUST, 2005.

(a): Although the amount of rainfall, including temporal and spatial distribution is one of the major determining factors of foodgrains production, yet there are other major factors like temperature, adequate and timely supply of inputs, incidence of pests and diseases, managerial skills of farmers etc. which play a vital role in the productivity and production of foodgrains. Therefore, it is difficult to isolate and quantify the impact of irregularity of monsoon on foodgrains production in terms of percentage.

(b): The behaviour of monsoon was erratic in the month of June 2005 and at the all −India level the cumulative rainfall from 1st June to 29th June was 20% less than the normal (long period average) rainfall. However, the monsoon revived subsequently and the cumulative rainfall from 1st June to 20th July 2005 at the All India level was 349.5 millimeter, equal to normal rainfall. The sowing operations were delayed in the beginning of monsoon but have accelerated with steady progress of monsoon and it is expected that the area under crops will improve in the coming weeks. Assuming no further aberration in the monsoon and adequate availability of inputs, no decline in the production of foodgrains is anticipated at this juncture.

(c): The value of agricultural exports (including allied sectors) in money terms shows an increasing trend over the years. It increased from Rs.25314 crores in 1999-2000 to Rs.39863 crores in 2004-05. However, percentage of agricultural exports to the total exports shows a declining trend. In 1999-2000 agricultural exports constituted 15.9% of the total National exports, which declined to 11.2% in the year 2004-05. It may, however, be noted that the percentage of agricultural imports to total imports also registered a decline from 7.5% to 4.6% during the same period.

(d): To boost export of agro products, the Government provides a variety of incentives in the form of financial and other assistance through Commodity Boards/Authorities, Export Promotion Councils for infrastructure development, modern packaging units, quality control and research and market development.

(e)&(f): As mentioned in part (c), the value of agricultural exports shows an increasing trend over the years. The value of agricultural exports is not expected to decline in future years. However, the relative share of agricultural exports vis-Ã -vis exports of non-agricultural items would depend on factors like domestic demand and supply, international market situation encompassing production, demand and prices etc.